

OLC 71 - 2032

22 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Meeting with Chairman John Stennis
Re 23 November 1971 Briefing of Senate Armed
Services Committee

1. Today I accompanied the Director in a meeting with Chairman John Stennis and Mr. Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to discuss the Director's appearance tomorrow before the full Committee. Prior to the Senator's arrival, we discussed with Mr. Braswell the "two hats" concept of the Director's responsibilities, noting that they were not spelled out by statute but were implicit in the Director's responsibilities as head of CIA on the one hand and the Chairman of the U.S. Intelligence Board on the other. Mr. Braswell mentioned Senator Symington's concern over Laos and the likelihood he would raise this question tomorrow. He also pointed out some questions we might get as a result of the Newsweek story.

2. When Senator Stennis joined the discussion, he explained in confidence problems that Senator Symington had raised in the Appropriations Committee, and said it was entirely possible that Senator Symington could bring up on the floor the question of intelligence budgets which Senator Ellender had refused to discuss with him in the Appropriations Committee. Senator Stennis said he was looking for means to avoid the authorization process in connection with the Agency budget, and thought this might be done.

3. Senator Stennis asked whether Senator Symington had been present at any meetings where the Agency budget was discussed under Senator Russell's chairmanship. There was some uncertainty on this point. Senator Stennis said that pressure for some disclosures regarding the community budget was mounting, and he might find it necessary to give some ground. He suggested the possibility of adding Senators Mansfield and Scott to the Intelligence Subcommittee.

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4. Mr. Braswell went over some questions which he thought might be asked tomorrow including the one of whether the Director was being "kicked upstairs." The Director said he couldn't abrogate his responsibilities for running CIA--that he could delegate a little more to some of his deputies but he had no intention of relinquishing his authority over the Agency and would not sanction a deputy dealing "behind his back." He said if he found it impossible to carry out his responsibilities to both the Agency and the community, he would "be back" to Senator Stennis. He said, in strict confidence, that he was sure the President had no intention of his relinquishing his control over the Agency. He explained that the NSCIC had been set up largely in response to his own recommendation in order to fill a gap in the old system by providing authoritative customer guidance.

5. Senator Stennis said that one of the problems concerning certain Committee members was the influence of Dr. Kissinger. The Director explained that Dr. Kissinger's role was determined entirely by the President, who gave Dr. Kissinger his orders.

6. There was some discussion of whether a transcript should be made and Senator Stennis said that he doubted this was a good idea, but if he changed his mind he would let us know.

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